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INDIAN CAMPAIGNS

1835-1842

Material and Sources
of
Chapter VI, Volume Two
(Part One)

History of the United States Marine Corps

By

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FORENOTE

This compilation is not the final manuscript of this Chapter but represents only material and sources upon which it will be based. If details concerning the participation of the Navy and Army in any operation or incident described herein do not appear, such omission occurs only because it is impracticable in a history of this character to set forth more than the work of the Marines themselves. To do more than this would extend the history beyond a practical scope and size. In many of the operations described, the Navy or the Army, or both, have been present in greater strength than the Marines, and full credit is here given for their splendid achievements.

As a matter of convenience this chapter is divided into two parts.

The following form of citation is suggested if it is desired to cite, either in published works, or manuscript, any information contained herein:-

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Ch. VI, p--)

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CHAPTER VI

CAMPAIGNS AGAINST THE CREEK, SEMINOLE AND CHEROKEE INDIANS, 1835-1842

At various times during the years 1835-1842 the American Marines participated in operations against the Seminoles, the Creeks, and the Cherokees. It was during this period that the Marines were detached for service with the Army for the first time under the provisions of the Act of 1834, by order of President Andrew Jackson. In his status of an Army officer, Colonel Commandant Archibald Henderson commanded one brigade (composed of Marines, Regular Army Infantry and Artillery and friendly Creeks) of the two that formed Major General Thomas S. Jesup's Army of the South. Marine Guards from Naval vessels of war cooperated with the Army and Navy Bluejackets ashore and some from the ships were ashore under naval command as land troops and in boats and canoes. Several Marine Officers performed important duty under direction of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs conducting the emigration of the Indians to their new homes in the Western Country.

A Marine Barracks was maintained near Pensacola during these years. It was called the "Marine Barracks, Navy Yard, near Pensacola," or at the "Barrancas, near the Navy Yard, Pensacola."¹

A treaty was signed, on May 9, 1832, at Payne's Landing by James Gadsden, for the United States, and by the Seminole Chiefs. The latter consented, upon certain conditions, to a removal to lands west of the Mississippi. Two years elapsed before the treaty was ratified, and the delay had an unfavorable effect. A large number of the Chiefs refused to go.² On October 29, 1835 Secretary of the Navy Mahlon Dickerson directed Commodore Alexander J. Dallas, Commanding the West India Squadron, to "order one of the vessels of your squadron" to cruise "along the coast from Charlotte Harbor to Tampa Bay during such time as arrangements are making for collecting and embarking the Seminole Indians about to be removed." And to direct "her Commander to communicate with Brigadier General D. L. Clinch, Commanding the U. S. Troops in Florida, who in conjunction with General Thompson, has charge of the removal of those

Indians, and to co-operate with Genl. Clinch in such manner as he may request in effecting their embarkation."³

The year 1835 was spent in a series of fruitless negotiations, during which occasional outrages, committed by both whites and Indians, increased the ill-feeling. At the end of the year the Seminoles were divided into two hostile groups. The group adhering to the treaty took refuge near Fort Brooke on Tampa Bay. The others, influenced chiefly by the half-breed Osceola or Powell, resorted to arms.⁴

These hostile Indians, about 450 in number, assembled in the almost inaccessible swamps of the Withlacoochee. These swamps were situated between Fort King near the Ocklawaha, and Fort Brooke on Tampa Bay.⁵

On November 30, 1835 there was a total of six officers and 510 men of the regular Army on duty in Florida. About 250 were stationed at Fort King under Brevet Brigadier General Clinch, one company was at St. Augustine, three at Fort Brooke, and one at Key West.⁶

General Clinch, determined to attack the Indians, sent to Fort Brooke for a detachment to join him at Fort King. Major Dade left Fort Brooke with about 110 men on December 24, 1835. Four days later the Indians attacked this column and only three men escaped.⁷

W. A. Whitehead, the Collector at Key West wrote

Commodore Alexander J. Dallas, who was at Havana on the Constellation about this massacre, calling for protection. "Most painful intelligence has been received today, from the Mainland, of the massacre of two companies of U. S. Troops, with all their officers, while marching from Tampa Bay to Fort King. Intelligence has also been received that the Indians in the vicinity of Cape Florida have likewise massacred a family on the coast, and that the inhabitants of all the settlements in that vicinity are moving down toward Key West. "As we are in a very unprotected state, in consequence of the removal to Tampa Bay, of the Troops and ammunition of the Government, public meetings have been called to devise measures for the protection of ourselves and the other inhabitants of the Islands, and among others adopted, it had been proposed to apply to whatever vessels of war there may be in Havana, for the security their presence in this vicinity will afford. The Committee appointed will, I presume, address you immediately on the subject and you will allow me to express my own wishes that you will comply with their request so far as your orders may permit, as I am satisfied there is a necessity for some steps of the kind."

Commodore Dallas sailed from Havana with the Constellation and St. Louis for Key West in January. The Marine officer of the Constellation was First Lieutenant Nathaniel S. Waldron, while Sergeant John Montgomery was in charge of

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the St. Louis' Marines.

The Indians raided the settlements south of St. Augustine. General Clinch, with about 200 regulars and about 400 volunteers under Governor Call crossed the Withacoochee on December 31. They repulsed an attack by the Indians but with a loss to the Regulars of 57 killed or wounded.

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At this time the territory of the United States was divided into two military departments, the Eastern under General Winfield Scott, and the Western under General Gaines. The latter, in Louisiana, hearing of Dade's massacre, without waiting for instructions from Washington, sailed for Tampa with a force and landed at Fort Brooke.

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Major General Winfield Scott, in January of 1836, was ordered to command the forces in Florida. The militia of South Carolina, Georgia and Alabama were called into active service.

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A detachment of Officers, Bluejackets and six Marines left the Vandalia "on the requisition of the Governor of Florida, to act against the Indians of East Florida".

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These Marines reported back aboard ship on February 19.

"I find the alarm great, at this place, for myself

I apprehend no immediate danger to it, but fear greatly the situation in which the forces at Fort Brooke are placed," reported Dallas on January 15, from Key West, "I have upon reflection determined to remain here for the present, and send to the relief of Fort Brooke all the Marines I can spare from the Squadron and also to send a detachment of Seamen to look after the Light House on Cape Florida. To effect this, I shall be compelled to charter two small vessels".¹⁶

"The Schooner Grampus should she be found at Pensacola will be ordered to proceed immediately to Tampa Bay," continued the Commodore. "None other of the vessels of the Squadron can approach Fort Brooke nearer than from twenty to twenty-five miles, certainly not nearer than fifteen; however should the Grampus not be at Pensacola the first of the Sloops of War that shall reach this after giving me the provisions which she will have on board for me shall be ordered there, with directions to cooperate in any way possible with the land forces".¹⁶

On January 17 Commodore Dallas, still at Key West, wrote that "the Marines etc., destined for the assistance of Fort Brooke have already been transferred to a Merchant Brig, to sail within the present hour for Tampa Bay. An

Officer and a party of Seamen will be sent to reinstate the light on Cape Florida so soon as I can obtain a vessel to transport them."¹⁷

Commodore Dallas on January 27, 1836, at Key West, reported to Secretary Dickerson as follows:

"Lieutenant Bache, who had been despatched with a party of seamen for the purpose of reinstating the Cape Florida light, which had been abandoned by the former keeper, having effected that object, returned last evening and I have the honor to enclose a copy of his report.

" Lieutenant Waldron, left this place on the 18th inst. with a detachment of 57 Marines, Assist. Surgeon Lawrason, Passed Midshipmen Bowie, Midshipmen Beverley and Ford and 7 seamen, for the purpose of affording assistance to our troops at Fort Brooke, Tampa Bay. He has not yet returned, nor have I heard from him since his departure. Unless the services of the said detachment should be required longer, I have reason to expect it here in the course of a week.

"The last intelligence received from Tampa was of the 16th Inst. The Indians were then said to be in considerable force in the immediate vicinity of the Fort.

"No danger is to be apprehended from Indians, for the present, at Key West, but the residents on Indian Key about

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65 miles to the Eastward, entertain great fear of an attack, which if successful would doubtless be the precursed of one on this place.

"Mr. Trist, our Consul at Havana, who stopped here, a few hours on his way to that post informed me that a requisition, had been made by the Governor of Florida on the Commander of the Vandalia for 80 men, that they had been furnished, and had left Pensacola for St. Marks. Consequently I cannot expect the Vandalia to join me here.

"I shall leave this post for Pensacola as soon as possible, after the St. Louis shall arrive with provisions¹⁸ for this ship."

First Lieutenant Nathaniel S. Waldron, of the Marines, wrote the following letter from Fort Brooke, Tampa Bay, on January 30, 1836, to Colonel Henderson:

"I left the Frigate Constellation on the 17th inst. with fifty-six Marines under my charge part of the Guard of the St. Louis and that Ship arrived here in a transport chartered for the purpose on the 22nd inst. My presence with the detachment was very gratifying and unexpected and very much wanted as an attack was expected at this point at the very time of my arrival of 400 Indians and negroes.

"The length of time which we shall be wanted is quite

uncertain by information from the northern frontier that they have had several skirmishes at that point. I trust however they will give the forces concentrated here a chance to put down the troubles in this quarter, which have been spread in the prints. The account of Col. Dade's loss with his command is correct as stated in the Key West papers.

"We are all enclosed within a pickett about 275 officers and soldiers. Col. Twiggs is soon expected here with a strong force for the field.

"The friendly Indians about 100 in number have succeeded in taking three of the hostile Indians one of them had on a soldiers shirt bloody and a bullet hole through it which is a proof of his having been in action.

"The climate here is rather cold and healthy. The Vandalia arrived yesterday from Pensacola. Lieutenant Andrew Ross is on board of her with eight Marines the remainder of his Guard were left at St. Marks. The steamer they took passage in, with some seamen, gave out at St. Marks. A Revenue Cutter will go for them tomorrow.

"I may not be able to make a return of my Command previous to my returning to the Frigate.

"Lieutenant Ross has received his orders to report
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at Pensacola."

The Log of the Constellation at Key West, for January 18, states that "Lieutenant Waldron went on board the brig Seaflower, of New York, and bound to Tampa Bay, with a detachment of 57 Marines," and that "the Seaflower sailed for Tampa Bay with a detachment of 57 Marines, under the command of Lieutenant Waldron".²⁰

It was noted in the Log of the Constellation at Key West for February 5, that "the brig Seaflower arrived" at Key West "two days from Tampa Bay," having "left Lieutenant Waldron and the Marines at Tampa Bay."²¹

Captain F.S. Belton, U.S. Army, at Fort Brooke, Tampa Bay, on February 1, wrote to Commodore Dallas as follows:

"Pursuant to your instructions Lieutenant Waldron, with his very effective detachment, joined this Garrison on the 22nd ult., and has been considered so important a part of the defence, as to make it necessary for them to remain if it should meet your concurrence until the reinforcement from New Orleans reach this place, which if I am rightly informed, may be about the tenth instant."

"On the part of my Comrades, of this Garrison, allow me to present to you, my deep felt acknowledgments for the patriotic as well as kind feelings, which conceived the possibility and so speedily and efficiently threw into

our little work a force so ready and competent to gallant achievement. A prolonged investment of this work created by daily and nightly labor, in the face of the most unflinching and martial barbarians, our Nation had ever struggled with, without retreat, or negotiation in reserve, had tested our constancy, and daily and nightly, for weeks, every moment was expected to avenge our massacred brethern. Under such circumstances, or emotion is to thank you in a tone and manner worthy of your efforts, and our responsibility to preserve this post at all hazards".²²

Commodore Dallas received the following orders, dated January 30, from Secretary Dickerson:

"General Scott has been appointed to the command of the United States forces against the Hostile Indians in Florida," and "I have to request that you will co-operate (with the force under your command, or a sufficient portion of it) with General Scott in the subjugation and removal of those hostile Indians in such way as you may think most conducive to the public interest."²³

Captain William C. Bolton, Commandant of the Pensacola Navy Yard, wrote Secretary Dickerson on February 1,²⁴ "foreign war is so much talked of and Indian War existing, that I think everything ought to be looked to " here.

Secretary Dickerson, on February 2, informed Commodore Dallas that:

"Captain Bolton Commandant of the Navy Yard Pensacola has apprised the Department of his having ordered the Vandalia (in your absence) from the Station to Tampa Bay in consequence of communications from the Governor of Florida and the Commdr. of Ft. Brooke on Tampa Bay. Under the urgent necessity of the case for prompt action the orders given by Captain Bolton to a part of your Squadron to furnish aid and protection to our settlements and posts in Florida, have been entirely approved." ²⁵

Commodore Dallas, on February 5 reported to Washington, in part, as follows:

"I am most happy to say that the six Officers and Seamen sent in charge of the vessel taking the Marines to the relief of the Military at Fort Brooke, Tampa Bay, have returned all well, having left the detachment of Marines from this Ship and the St. Louis there."

"There being no immediate danger to be apprehended for the safety of this or the adjoining Keys I shall leave here tomorrow morning accompanied by the St. Louis, for Pensacola."

"The Vandalia is now at Tampa Bay with orders to cooperate with and assist as far as possible the movements and objects of the troops in that vicinity." ²⁶

On the 8th February 1836, Commodore Dallas was informed by the Department that Master Commandant Mervine P. Mix had been ordered to proceed with the Concord, as soon as ready for sea to the West India Station, first to Key West. "On his way out and particularly at Key West and Tampa Bay he is instructed to render all lawful aid in his power to our citizens and their commerce and property and if it should be necessary or expedient to co-operate with the Military forces in defending the inhabitants of Florida from the savage attacks of the Seminole Indians." 27

Commodore Dallas, on board the Constellation at Key West, wrote Secretary Dickerson on February 7, 1836, that he could see no possible way for the United States to avoid a War with France. He brought this subject up because he believed that in case of such a war Key West would be one of the most exposed stations "and Pensacola in all probability the first point of attack." The Commodore rated Pensacola very high as a naval base and stated that "should it be permitted to fall in the hands of the French," they could "by dismantling one of their line-of-battle ships," affectually "with a large naval force command all the Gulf of Mexico." Therefore, Commodore Dallas earnestly urged that Pensacola be properly defended. 28

Major-General Edmund Pendleton Gaines' force from New Orleans arrived at Tampa Bay early in February. Master Commandant Thomas T. Webb commanding the Vandalia at Tampa Bay, on February 10, 1836 congratulated Colonel David E. Twiggs²⁹ on his safe arrival with the troops at Fort Brooke.

At Fort Brooke, on February 10, 1836, General Gaines wrote to Master Commandant Webb, commanding the Vandalia, that his force amounted to "nearly one thousand men: viz: - near 700 Louisiana Volunteers and more than 300 Regular Troops. This force is intended to co-operate with the troops now assembling on the northeast border of East Florida. I shall take the field as soon as the troubles of our Sea Voyage are over and our horses disembark, say³⁰ in a day or two."

The following day, General Gaines requested Master Commandant Webb "during our absence to place the citizens with the friendly Indians, together with our military stores, on board the Transports now in this Bay. I have to request the favor of you to afford them the protection of the U.S. Ship Vandalia, under your command, and the aid of her boats and crews to assist our awkward landsmen in removing the stores from this place to the Transports, at as early an hour tomorrow as may suit your convenience."³¹

Master Commandant Webb, on February 13, reported to Commodore Dallas that Major General Gaines had arrived from New Orleans at Fort Brooke some days prior with a large reinforcement for that post; that General Gaines had informed him of his intentions of taking the field without delay, of abandoning Fort Brooke, and placing military stores, citizens and friendly Indians on board the transports under the guns of the Vandalia for protection during his absence.

"The Commanding General has not yet informed me," reported Webb "in what way he intends disposing of the Marine Guard in charge of Lieutenant Waldron. So soon as he does, I will act in conformity with your instructions. I am hourly expecting the Revenue Cutter Dallas, from St. Marks with Mr. Rowan, who I sent to that place for the remainder of my officers and men, detached in January last on a requisition of the Governor of Florida."

In a postscript in the same letter, written at 4 p.m., Webb wrote that "since the above was written, my boats have returned from Fort Brooke with the intelligence that General Gaines took up the line of march this morning and had altered his plan of abandoning the Fort and has left Major Sands with 218 men, including the Marine Guard, to maintain the post."

General Gaines marched to Fort King arriving there on February 22 nearly destitute of rations and forage. Having replenished his supplies at Fort Doane, called Fort Drane in some books, he resumed his march toward the Withlacoochee, on the banks of which river he was attacked on the 27th and besieged until March 6, when reinforcements under General Clinch arrived. As soon as the siege was raised, General Gaines turned the command over to General Clinch, and returned to his department. The loss during the siege was 51 killed and wounded. The exhaustion of the supplies at Fort Doane necessarily compelled General
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Scott to postpone his campaign.

In writing to General Clinch from Picolata, on February 26, General Scott stated that he had "heard with equal astonishment and regret that Major-General Gaines, without reference to my arrangements, perhaps in ignorance, possibly in defiance of them, should have made a premature movement from Tampa Bay, and having arrived within 20 miles of Fort Doane, should have called for nearly three-fourths of the subsistence in deposit at that place, on which I had relied for the movement of the right wing, in concert with the other parts of the Army."
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Commodore Dallas left Key West aboard the Constellation, accompanied by the St. Louis, on February 9, 1836 and ar-

rived at Pensacola on February 13, 1836. Here he found the Warren that had arrived earlier on the same day from Galves-
35
ton and a cruise in the Gulf.

The Dexter arrived at Tampa Bay on February 19 "with the balance of my crew" wrote Master Commandant Webb to Commodore Dallas who was at Pensacola. "He brought me a letter from the Governor of Florida in which he informs me, that a re-inforcement of 250 men would embark in a day or two at St. Marks for the post at Fort Brooke. They are hourly expected and when they arrive, I do not think that presence of this ship here or the services of the Marine Guard under Lieutenant Waldron will be any longer required, as the force in Camp will exceed 300 men, a number deemed sufficient to defend it against any body the Indians can
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send."

An expedition of three boats and forty-two men of the Vandalia, under Lieutenant L.M. Powell, sailed from Tampa Bay on March 17, direct for the Manatee River which was ascended to the head of boat navigation. From here, on the 19th, the expedition proceeded to the Anclote Keys which were reached on the 21st. Three days later it sailed for the Mullet Keys, arriving there on the 27th. The expedition arrived back at Tampa Bay on the 28th without having had
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contact with the Indians.

Colonel William Lindsay, U.S. Army left Fort Brooke on March 22, "taking with him Lieutenant Waldron and the Marine Guard under his charge, with the view of forming a junction³⁸ with Generals Scott, Clinch and Eustis on the Withlacoochee." Lieutenant Waldron, on April 13, reported to Dallas "that he returned with our Marines to Fort Brooke" April 4, "from the expedition under Colonel Lindsay. They had suffered much fatigue and exposure and had several skirmishes with the Indians with but little loss on either side, none on the part of the Marines. They appear to have been active and useful and to have conducted themselves with much propriety".³⁹

On April 2, Webb at Tampa Bay, reported that a friendly Indian Chief, Black Dirt, states General Gaines' "troops had been engaged for seven days and that the Indians had sent a Flag of Truce to have a conference on the subject of Peace, at that moment General Clinch arrives with a large force and not knowing of the Truce, charged the Indians when they fled to the woods."⁴⁰

Lieutenant Powell, of the Vandalia, with two boats and about forty officers and men, including three Marines, on March 31 proceeded from Tampa Bay to Charlotte Harbor to relieve the whites who had been attacked by Indians under Chief Wy-ho-kee. On the 12th General Smith handed Powell

instructions from Webb to cooperate in operations with Army. The Naval personnel was incorporated with the Army and made the campaign up the Myacca River. They arrived back at Tampa Bay on April 27.⁴¹ First Lieutenant Andrew Ross of the Marines "accompanied the expedition as a volunteer and was placed in command of one of the columns," reported Colonel Persefor F. Smith who commanded the Army troops. "I owe much to his zeal and exertions, and am sure his well known gallantry would have displayed itself if any had offered," wrote Colonel Smith.⁴²

The Concord and Revenue Cutter Washington sailed on April 15 from Pensacola Bay for Tampa Bay.⁴³

Commander Mervine P. Mix, of the Concord at Tampa Bay, on April 30, reported to Dallas that "our Marines are still detained at Fort Brooke, at the request of the Commanding General."⁴⁴

The Vandalia left Tampa Bay on April 30, for the Rancho, for the purpose of watering. Commander Mix of the Concord "proceeded in the U. S. Revenue Cutter to the Head Quarters of the Commanding General, to tender to him the cooperation of the force under my command, as directed by" Commodore Dallas' order of April 10. On April 30 Webb reported to Dallas that "the Commanding General has requested that the Concord may remain here

and for the same reasons the Marines also under Lieutenant Waldron. I think however that they will not be long detained as I do not believe the Stockade tenable against the immense force which the enemy will undoubtedly bring against it." ⁴⁵

The Vandalia arrived off Pensacola on May 5 and the Grampus on May 13. ⁴⁶

The Concord (Commander Mix) and Revenue Cutter Washington arrived at Pensacola Bay on April 8. ⁴⁷

On May 18, 1836 Governor Schley of Georgia wrote to General Scott that the Creeks were in open war. "They have crossed to the Georgia side of the Chattahoochee and burnt Roanoke, and an attack on Columbus is daily expected." ⁴⁸

"The Creek Indians are in arms and have committed several murders and burnings," and Tallahassee is threatened," reported Dallas on May 20. ⁴⁹

General Scott was informed that Brevet Brigadier General John R. Fenwick, (a former Marine Officer) ⁵⁰ had been ordered to the Creek Country with six companies of artillery. ⁵¹

Brevet Major-General Thomas S. Jesup, on May 19, was assigned to command the troops in the war against the Creeks. Generals Scott and Jesup conferred at Augusta and arrived together at Columbus on May 30. The militia had no arms. ⁵²

Commodore Dallas, received the following important in-

structions, dated May 25, from Secretary Dickerson:

"It is the wish of the President of the United States that you detach as large a portion of the force under your command as the important duties already committed to your care will permit, for the purpose of aiding in the operations against the Seminole and Creek Indians.

"I have therefore to request that you will cause three steam boats, which will be sent to Pensacola for the purpose, to be manned with Seamen and Marines, with proper Officers, with as little delay as may be, to ply up and down the Chattahoochee River, for the purpose of transporting the necessary supplies, of keeping open the communication, and operating against the Indians. It is believed this may be done with safety to the interest already committed to your care.

"Should Major-General Jesup, who has command of the movements against the Creek Indians, procure one or two additional boats upon the Chattahoochee to be employed in the same manner, I have to request that you will cause to be manned with seamen and Marines, if the strength of your force will permit, for such service, in aid of the movements of General Jesup, as you shall deem most expedient.

"You will communicate, and direct the Officers you may detach upon this service to communicate, with Major General

Jesup, the Governor of Florida and General Clinch, upon all subjects immediately connected with the duties to be performed by your detachment.

"It will be necessary that the Steam Boats on this service should be barricaded and mounted with as many pieces of artillery, as you shall deem expedient.

"That you may the better understand the kind of aid wanted and expected from the force under your command and which it is hoped may be realized, I enclose to you a copy of a letter of the Secretary of War to this Department of the 24th instant.

"In a few days the Sloop of War Boston, now at the Navy Yard Charlestown, Mass., will sail for Pensacola and another sloop will be ordered there in a short time.

"I think the present crisis affords your Squadron the opportunity of rendering important services to the Country, of which I am very confident you will avail yourself."⁵³

On the 21st May 1836, Colonel Commandant Archibald Henderson, having tendered the services of the Marines at the shore stations for duty with the Army in the field, the President of the United States by General Order No. 33⁵⁴ from the War Department dated 21 May, 1836 directed all the disposable force on shore (except a Sergeants Guard at each of the posts) under Command of the Commandant of the Corps to report in person to Secretary of War Lewis

Cass and then to proceed to Fort Mitchell Alabama and re-⁵⁵
port to the Commanding General for active duty in the field.

Colonel Henderson obeyed these orders and reported to the War Department on May 24, 1836. The Adjutant General of the Army informed Colonel Henderson in a letter on May 25 that "it is not deemed necessary to issue further instructions for your guidance, from this office, since as a matter of course, it is expected, that the Corps, will, under your directions, be equipped and well supplied for active field service."⁵⁶

The Regular Army, although augmented by the militia, volunteers and friendly Indians, welcomed the addition of a two battalion-regiment of Marines. This was nearly⁵⁷
half of the entire Corps.

So from May 24, 1836 two battalions of Marines, that were formed into a Regiment, formed part of the Army as provided for by the Act of June 30, 1834.

Orders were issued to the Marines at the various posts to proceed to rendezvous points. On May 21, Captain Parke G. Howle, the Adjutant and Inspector, ordered Brevet Lieutenant Colonel Samuel Miller commanding the Marines at Philadelphia, to "proceed to Fortress Monroe, with the whole Guard under your command with the exception of one Sergeant, one Corporal and twelve privates, to be left

as a Guard at the Navy Yard. The Officers, non-commissioned Officers and men from Philadelphia from Headquarters, and from Norfolk will concentrate at Fortress Monroe, at the farthest by Friday the 27th inst., in order to be in readiness to take the Steam Packet Saturday the 28th for Charleston, South Carolina. The Commandant will be at Fortress Monroe by the 28th, and will take Command of the Force collected there. Captain Harris you will direct to proceed on the service with you."⁵⁸

Colonel Commandant Henderson on May 30, 1836 at Washington wrote a letter to Lieutenant-Colonel John M. Gamble at New York that "during my absence on the Campaign, Lieutenant-Colonel Wainwright will remain at Headquarters."⁵⁹

On June 1, Colonel Henderson wrote Lieutenant-Colonel Wainwright: "During my absence on the campaign against the Creek Indians, I leave you in command at Head Quarters. There will be little other than bureau duty to attend to, with which you are so familiar as to render it unnecessary to give any detailed instructions.

"Three Sergeants (for duty) 1 Corporal and 12 privates are left to furnish a guard for the Navy Yard, to consist of 1 Sergeant 1 Corporal and 6 Privates. One of the Music left behind will have to act lance Corporal as a relief for the guard at the Navy Yard. The Sergeant Major will sleep

in Barracks. Corporal Brown has always been detailed to attend to the grounds and outside porches around the House occupied by me; I have to request that he be so continued unless it should be necessary to give him other employment or duty.

"Sergeant Triguet is left to assist in attending to the duties at Head Quarters. He is a respectable old man, and has no other failing than that which but too often attends an old soldier; he has however almost corrected this habit.

"I leave you a most valuable soldier in the Sergeant Major whose health entirely incapacitates him from going on the expedition. He is anxious to go but as a matter of duty I have ordered him to remain as I cannot take any other than able-bodied men on such arduous service.

"Since writing the above I have decided to leave the Band, and you will be pleased to divide it into two guards to keep up one Sentinel at Head Quarters. The Drum and Fife Majors, will take alternate days with the Sergeant Major to remain in Barracks, in charge of them, so that one of those non-commissioned officers will be at all time within them.

"My clerk, Mr. Fulmer, can take charge of the School in barracks, until the regular teacher returns and can at the same time, attend to the business of this office".

"In compliance with this order (of May 21) on the first

of June 1836 the forces at Headquarters proceeded to Fort Monroe where they were joined by detachments from Philadelphia, and Gosport consisting in all of one Colonel Commandant, one brevet Lieutenant Colonel, one Major, six Captains, eight First Lieutenants, four Second Lieutenants, twenty-three Sergeants, nineteen Corporals, seven Drummers, ⁶¹ seven Fifers, and 198 privates."

The following officers were from Washington: Colonel Commandant Archibald Henderson, Brevet Lieutenant Colonel and Paymaster Charles R. Broom, Captain and Commanding Company C James Edelin, Captain and Adjutant and Inspector Parke G. Howle, Captain and Quartermaster Elijah J. Weed, Captain and Commanding Company D William W. Dulany, First Lieutenant and Assistant Quartermaster Horatio N. Crabb, First Lieutenant and Adjutant Henry B. Tyler, Second Lieutenant and Commissary of Subsistence John T. Sprague, Second Lieutenant Edward L. West, Second Lieutenant Josiah Watson and Lieutenant of the Navy and acting Assistant ⁶² Quartermaster William P. Piercy.

The following officers were from Gosport (Norfolk): Captain Levi Twiggs, Brevet Captain James McCawley, First Lieutenant Landon N. Carter, First Lieutenant Francis N. Armistead, First Lieutenant William B. Stark, and Second ⁶² Lieutenant William L. Young.

The following officers were from Philadelphia: Lieutenant Colonel Samuel Miller, Captain John Harris, First Lieutenant G. F. Lindsay, and First Lieutenant Francis C. Hall.⁶³

The Medical Staff was: Surgeon United States Navy and Chief of the Medical Staff John A. Kearney, and Passed Assistant Surgeon United States Navy George B. McKnight.⁶⁴

The different detachments united into a battalion left Old Point Comfort on June 2 for Charleston, S.C., on board the Columbus. The total number was 305.⁶⁵ Arrived at Charleston on June 5. During the passage the whole force was organized into five companies, A, B, C, D, and G.⁶⁶

On October 2, 1836 Lieutenant Colonel Robert D. Wainwright reported to the Secretary of the Navy that the "detachment of the Marine Corps for army service was immediately, previous to June 1, 1836, divided into companies, and has continued so since."⁶⁷

They left Charleston on June 6 and arrived at Augusta, Ga. on the following day, Colonel Henderson reporting to Secretary Dickerson that they had arrived "on the 7th, and take up their line of march from Fort Mitchell tomorrow morning."⁶⁸ They "encamped at the Arsenal," while⁶⁹ at Augusta.

On June 10th Marines marched from Augusta and arrived at Columbus, Ga. on the 23rd. They thus marched 224 miles in fourteen days.⁷⁰

General Scott wrote General Jesup, on June 21, 1836, that the next body of regulars expected was a detachment of Marines and they would probably be assigned the duty of establishing a depot "at Bryant's Landing, opposite to Fort Twiggs."⁷¹

"Colonel Henderson just arrived with the first detachment of the U.S. Marines," wrote General Scott at Columbus, Ga., to Brigadier-General R. Jones, of the Army on June 23.⁷²

On their arrival at Columbus orders were received from General Scott to proceed to a camp fifteen miles below Columbus which was named "Camp Henderson." They reached there on the 24th having marched down the Chattahoochee River and formed camp at Camp or Fort Henderson on the western bank of that river. Their orders required them to erect a strong picket work as a place of deposit for provisions, etc., for the eastern wing of the Army.⁷³

Colonel Henderson reported that on the evening of June 24 five Companies of Marines, with a train of wagons under his command encamped on the plantation of Mr. Forsythe; that they crossed the River on the 25th; that the "opposite

side of the River, for many miles above and below, was in the possession of a band of Creek Indians most actively engaged at that time in hostilities against the Whites;" that "Jim Henry, with the only party of hostile Indians of any consequence then in arms, occupied the Swamps within a few miles of the position taken by the troops under my command."⁷⁴

On June 25 Companies A and D, under Captain Levi Twiggs,⁷⁵ went out on a scout in search of Jim Henry.

This first battalion of U. S. Marines was joined, on July 1, 1836, by the Second Battalion commanded by Brevet Lieutenant Colonel William H. Freeman.⁷⁶

Colonel Commandant Archibald Henderson, commanding. Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel Samuel Miller. Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel William H. Freeman. Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel Charles R. Broom, Paymaster; Captain Parke G. Howle, Adjutant and Inspector; Captain Elijah J. Weed, Quartermaster; First Lieutenant George F. Lindsay, Assistant Quartermaster; First Lieutenant Francis C. Hall, Assistant Commissary; Surgeon, John A. Kearney, U.S.Navy; Passed Assistant Surgeon George B. McKnight, U.S.Army; Sergeant-Major James Gatchell; Captains Levi Twiggs, John Harris, James Edelin, William Dulany, James McCawley; Brevet Captain Benjamin Macomber; First Lieutenants, Alvin Edson, Henry B. Tyler, Landon N.

Carter, John G. Reynolds, Thomas L.C. Watkins, F.N.

Armistead, George H. Terrett, William E. Starke, William E. Lang, and Andrew H. Ross; Second Lieutenants: D.D. Baker, L.F. Whitney, Edward L. West, Robert C. Caldwell, William L. Young, Josiah Watson, W.M. McArdle, and John T. Sprague. 77

This battalion was made up of detachments from Portsmouth, N.H., Charlestown (Boston), Mass., and New York amounting in all to one Brevet Lieutenant Colonel, one Captain, six First Lieutenants, six Second Lieutenants, fourteen Sergeants, twelve Corporals, three Drummers, four Fifers, and 110 privates which detachment was organized into three companies, E, F, and H. 78

On July 1, 1836 Henderson reported as follows to Secretary Dickerson: "Not a single casualty has occurred among the men notwithstanding their exposure to unusual fatigue and hard duty in a sickly climate. The erection of a picket on the right bank of the Chattahoochee, fifteen miles below Columbus and in the heart of the hostile country, was assigned to my command the day of our arrival at Columbus, so that we, were immediately ordered on hard duty. We have nearly finished two storerooms for provisions and we are now actively engaged in putting up the pickets and occasionally in sending out scouting parties to show that we are prepared for fighting as well as for

working. We were very near taking a body of Indians the first day we set foot on this shore. It is now expected that the Campaign will be closed in the course of ten days or two weeks as General Scott is now on this side of the river scouring the whole hostile country, and I daily expect orders to join him on this service. I have every reason to be satisfied with my men, indeed with the spirit that prevades almost the entire command. They have borne a fatiguing and rapid march of thirteen days from Augusta to Columbus in such a manner as to be able to at once to undertake and execute an arduous duty assigned to them." ⁷⁹

On the same date, General Scott wrote to Commodore Alexander J. Dallas that the "war against the hostile Creeks is supposed to be virtually over. Nevertheless, there are several hostile parties who have not surrendered themselves, and who are seeking opportunities to escape across the ⁸⁰ Chattahoochee into Florida."

"I received" on July 1, 1836, "a note from Colonel Henderson, who is engaged in erecting a shed, etc., on this side of the river, at the head of the summer navigation, for the reception of Army supplies from New Orleans." ⁸¹

"The zeal and promptitude which have uniformly been displayed by yourself and officers, in cooperating with the land service, deserves a higher commendation than any that

I could bestow," wrote General Scott to Commodore Dallas.

The Columbus Sentinel of July 1 reported that since their arrival at Camp Henderson the Marines had all enjoyed good health and spirits, and pursued their work with vigilance and promptness. "Their location being in a most exposed part of the enemy's country, it is a great privation for them to be confined to the monotonous duties of the camp, though well convinced of the importance of their present work. Their Camp has been for two successive nights roused by Indians lurking about, and approaching the picket sentinels within a few yards when they were fired on and pursuit immediately given, but no traces of them could be found. Last night, after the roll of the drum had ceased, a whoop was distinctly heard up the river, which no doubt was a signal to a party above. On Friday morning last, a Negro boy who had escaped from the Indians that morning, and who had been a prisoner some five or six weeks, was brought into the camp by Captain Love, of the Georgia Volunteers. He stated that a party of twenty or thirty had camped the night before within six or seven miles, and had left that morning for a large swamp not far off, no doubt Cowagee swamp, and that he saw Jim Henry that day, who advised them to go as soon as possible, and that he had been badly wounded in the shoulder. Captains Twiggs and

Dulany's companies, together with a company of Georgia volunteers, under Captain Love - the whole under the command of Captain Twiggs - was immediately despatched in hopes of overtaking them, but without success."⁸³

On July 3 Companies A, B, C, and D, under command of Lieutenant Colonel Miller, went out in search of Indians on the Chattahoochee.⁸⁴

General Scott, at Fort Mitchell, on July 4, 1836 reported to the Adjutant General that the day before "a party of United States Marines, a few mounted volunteers and friendly Indians, scoured the country between the Euchee and the Hatcheechubby thoroughly, and to the extent of about twelve miles up those creeks. Coming up last night in the steamboat, I learned from General Henderson, at his Camp, that sixteen women, boys and children were captured on the Chattahoochee - the warriors of the same party having escaped across the river, abandoning their families." I "shall tomorrow, send off Colonel Broome of the Marine Corps, with a communication addressed to General Wool." A P.S. to this report, by the General's aid, was - "General Scott desires me to say that his objects in sending Colonel Broome are to learn the state of things in the Cherokee Country and to say to General Wool that, probably, the detachment of United States Marines (about

400)" and some volunteers, "may soon be spared from this quarter to reinforce the Cherokee Army, should they be required".⁸⁵

General Scott at the Headquarters of the Army of the South, Fort Mitchell, on July 1, 1836, wrote Governor R.K. Call, of Florida, that he would reinforce General Wool with a "portion of the regulars" etc., while "the remainder of the regulars and the Marines cannot fail to be wanted to escort the hostile Indians who have surrendered themselves and to wind up the war in this quarter, until late in the summer."⁸⁶

In a letter to General Wool of July 4, General Scott at Fort Mitchell wrote that "Lieutenant-Colonel Broome, of the Marines, from mere impulse of patriotism, has volunteered to bear this, my first letter. It will probably be agreeable to him to bring me your reply. * * * I shall, no doubt, very soon be able to send you very efficient reinforcements: about 400 U.S. Marines certainly, * * * I have requested Colonel Broome, whom I have the pleasure of presenting to you, to get, in going and returning, the best information as to the routes leading to the Cherokee country, the means of subsisting etc."⁸⁷

There were 400 Marines serving under Major General Winfield Scott, on July 5, 1836.⁸⁸

General Scott, on July 5, 1836, at Fort Mitchell, ordered the Commanding Officer of the armed steamer AMERICAN, Lieutenant Johnson; "In ascending this river, I wish you to stop at Colonel Henderson's post, a few miles below this, and bring up the detachment of U.S. Marines under his command or so much of it as your boat can conveniently accommodate to Fort Mitchell."⁸⁹

General Scott about this time was relieved by Major General Thomas S. Jesup.⁹⁰ In General Order No. 29 of July 7, 1836 at Columbus, Ga., General Scott wrote: "To the regular troops, including the United States Marines, the usual praise is due. They have exhibited steadiness, discipline and an eager desire to come in contact with the enemy. Although disappointed in that favorite wish, they have in all respects, rendered themselves highly useful."⁹¹

A detachment of twelve Marines, bluejackets, three officers, and four midshipmen left the Concord at Tampa Bay at 4:31 p.m., June 1, 1836 in the revenue cutter Washington on an expedition to St. Marks (St. Augustine). The Washington arrived back on June 25. The officers, Marines and bluejackets returned in the launch and Black Hawk.⁹²

On July 1, 1836 General Scott, at Fort Mitchell, wrote

to Commodore Dallas who was at Pensacola, that "the zeal and promptitude which has uniformly been displayed by yourself and officers in cooperating with the land service, deserves a higher commendation than any I can bestow."⁹³

This praise did not reach Commodore Dallas before he wrote the following letter, dated July 3, 1836, to Secretary of the Navy Mahlon Dickerson: "The fact is that the Navy have been constantly on the alert and have afforded at every point on the Coast of Florida, all the aid and assistance in their power, for which not the least credit has been given them nor have they been in any way noticed by the officers in command on shore. The Marines which I detached from this ship, have been marching and counter-marching, have done their duty with credit to themselves and the Corps, and are still detained at Fort Brooke, but no mention is made of them in the numerous letters of General Scott, Col. Lindsay or any one who has had the direction of their movements, with the single exception of Major Belton whose grateful feelings for the timely aid afforded the Garrison at Fort Brooke appears from his letter addressed to me. It appears by the report of Lieutenant Adams * * * that from the apprehension of an attack a detachment of Seamen from the Concord were kept marching from St. Marks to Tallahassee, from Tallahassee to St. Marks and back, in consequence of

reports and alarms not duly ⁹⁴inquired into and having no foundation in truth."

Fourteen Bluejackets, one Marine, and four officers left the Concord on July 6, 1836 in the first cutter for ⁹⁵an expedition.

The following day two officers, eleven bluejackets and seven Marines under Sergeant Joseph S. Wright left the Concord on the schooner Motto on an expedition to Indian Key ⁹⁶that was reported in imminent peril. They returned aboard the Washington to Pensacola Bay on August 18, 1836, with the information that all the combustible part of the Cape Florida Light House had been burnt but that they had rescued ⁹⁷the keeper.

The Concord left Tampa Bay early in August. Previous to leaving Lieutenant N.S. Waldron was ordered to embark on board. The Concord arrived at Pensacola Bay on August 5 "bringing with her the detachment of Marines" of the Constellation and the St. Louis, that had been stationed at ⁹⁸Fort Brooke. The Army did not wish to give up these ⁹⁹Marines. A detachment from the Grampus was placed on ¹⁰⁰shore to protect the Rancho at Tampa Bay on August 25, 1836.

After the departure of General Scott and the resignation of General Clinch, the command of the troops in Florida, pending the arrival of General Jesup, devolved

on Governor Call. General Jesup assumed command on December 8, 1836, relieving Governor Call. ¹⁰¹

Company E, under Captain George W. Walker, was ordered out from Fort Henderson on July 6, 1836 to scout that neighborhood, where it was said there were Indians. ¹⁰²

On July 7, 1836, General Jesup, at Tuskegee, Ga., wrote to General Scott that "if the Marines can be spared, I request that they be placed on the mail road from Columbus to Tuskegee, subject to my orders, say twelve to fourteen miles from Columbus at the stage house." ¹⁰³

Many scouting parties were sent out between July 11 and September 18, 1836. The most important was that under Captain Levi Twiggs to Upton Mills to intercept the passage of the Indians into Florida. ¹⁰⁴

On July 24, Company F was at Camp at Tuskegee, marching to join Colonel Henderson, who was stationed with three companies about eighteen miles in advance of Camp Tuskegee, at a point called Talese, where the great body of Indians were assembled to emigrate to Arkansas. Lieutenant Colonel Miller, with four companies, was encamped at Elliot's Farms, ten miles from Fort Mitchell. Lieutenant Colonel Freeman was president of the general court-martial that assembled at the Camp at Tuskegee on July 25. ¹⁰⁵

The muster rolls show Company A, under Captain Twiggs

and Company D, under Captain Dulany at Uptons Mills, Ga., Company B, under Captain Harris, Company C, under Captain Macomber, Company E, under Captain Walker, Company F, under Captain Brevoort, Company G, under Captain McCawley, and Company H, under First Lieutenant Edson, all at Tallassee. ⁶²

Company A was at White Plains, Ala., on August 31 ⁶² while the other Companies were at Tallassee.

Colonel Henderson in writing a letter on August 30, 1836 to General Jesup, put on top of his letter the following: "Headquarters of the Marine Corps, Tallahassee." ¹⁰⁶

A muster roll shows Corporal George R. Watkins and three privates on the Revenue Cutter Washington having joined from the Vandalia. The muster rolls show Companies A, C, D, E, and F, at Adams, Ala., while the others were at Fort Mitchell. ⁶²

"General Jesup was using his exertions to bring into Florida at an early period the detachment of Marines, commanded by Colonel Henderson, as also the regiment of Creek Volunteers, under Colonel Lane; but the fall of water in the Apalachicola River, defeated his designs. That portion of the Marine Corps had gone through the Creek Campaign, and was now in high order and perfect discipline. Their various duties had been performed with alacrity and zeal,

and only required another field to fulfill their own
anticipations. This detachment numbered 380 men, and 24
107
officers."

Private Thomas King of Company E died of disease at
108
Columbus on September 11, 1836. On the night of October
13, 1836 Private Daniel Brown, Company D, was drowned in
108
the Chattahoochee River. Sergeant Henry Marks of Company
108
A died of disease at Fort Brooke on November 9, 1836.
Private John Shillingsford of Company E died of disease at
108
Fort Brooke on December 7, 1836.

A letter written at Fort Mitchell, Alabama on October
3, 1836 stated "that the Corps had just received orders to
proceed to Florida forthwith, and that they were to take
up the line of march that afternoon or the next morning." 109

About October 15, 1836 Major General Jesup entered
Florida Territory with part of the forces employed in
subduing the Creek Indians. Governor Call was directed
to turn over the command of the Florida army to General
110
Jesup. The muster rolls for October, November, and
December show the six companies of Marines at Fort Brooke,
62
Tampa Bay.

Captain Parke G. Howle, of the Marines, served as
Acting Assistant Adjutant General of the Army of the South
111
from October 26, 1836 to May 23, 1837. On May 27, 1836

Colonel Commandant Henderson detailed Second Lieutenant John T. Sprague as Commissary of Subsistence to the Marines during the Creek Campaign. Brevet Captain Benjamin Macomber served as Assistant Commissary of Subsistence and Acting Quartermaster from January 1, 1837 at Fort Foster to April 24, 1837 when he rejoined Company E. First Lieutenant George F. Lindsay served as Brigade Quartermaster.

The Adjutant General of the Army, on November 11, 1836, wrote Marine Corps Headquarters, that "the several officers of the Marine Corps serving with the Army in Florida, who have from time to time reported in person at this office, pursuant to the orders of Colonel Henderson have for the most part been verbally directed to report to you; I therefore, have now to request, that you will furnish me with a list of all the Marine Officers who have left their Corps serving with the Army in the South, specifying the time they respectively reported to you, their present position, and the reason of their absence."¹¹²

A detachment of Mounted Marines, with a detachment of the Army, was sent out from Tampa Bay on November 12, 1836¹¹³ in search of Indians.

Colonel B.K. Pierce, Commanding Eighth Division, at "Headquarters, Army of Florida, Camp near Volusia, November 26, 1836," reported to Governor Call regarding the action

with the Seminoles on November 21, 1836. Colonel Pierce moved out in four columns at early dawn on the 21st in search of the enemy represented to be in a large force in the Wahoo Swamp. The Third and Fourth columns were formed of Creek Volunteers that included some Marine Officers. After marching about five miles and when within four hundred yards of Wahoo Swamp, the enemy "appeared in force on the edge of the Hammock which skirts the swamp." Colonel
114
Pierce reported that Lieutenant Andrew Ross, of the Marines, among many others, "behaved throughout the day with great energy and bravery." Lieutenant (Acting Captain) Ross served in the column of the gallant column of Major Morris. Colonel Pierce refers to him as the "brave Captain Ross," who with others "for a considerable time, sustained an unequal combat with the enemy, holding him in check until the arrival of the artillery and volunteers." "The loss in my division consists of Major Moniac, an Indian Chief, and two Indians killed," reported Colonel Pierce; "Captain Andrew Ross and three Indians wounded, of the Creek Volunteers," and five others killed and seven
115
wounded. Lieutenant Ross died of his wound on December
116
11, 1836 at Fort Heileman.

General Jesup reached Tampa Bay on October 20, 1836,

but was detained there, for want of transportation, until November 27, 1836, on which day he moved towards the scene of Governor Call's operations on the Withlacoochee. With 400 men he joined Governor Call at Volusia on December 4, 1836, and relieved him four days later.¹¹⁷

A detachment of Marines, under Colonel Henderson, left Tampa Bay on November 27, 1836 and returned on the 28th. On the following day a force of Marines and Army Artillery and about three hundred Alabama Volunteers left Tampa Bay with ten days provisions for the interior to report to Governor Call.¹¹⁸

On November 30, 1836 there were eighteen Marine Officers and 303 Marines serving under General Jesup.¹¹⁹

On December 4, 1836 a detachment of one hundred Marines and one hundred Army troops were sent as an escort to guard the supplies ordered to Fort Alabama.¹²⁰

President Andrew Jackson in his Seventh Annual Message to Congress on December 5, 1836 wrote that "the military movements rendered necessary by the aggressions of the hostile portions of the Seminole and Creek tribes of Indians, and by other circumstances, have rendered the active employment of nearly our whole regular force, including the Marine Corps, and of large bodies of militia and volunteers."¹²¹

Marine officers serving as part of the Army of the South were still under the jurisdiction of the Army when they went North. For instance on November 11, 1836 the Adjutant General of the Army in Washington wrote Second Lieutenant D.D. Baker, who was also in Florida, that he had received Lieutenant Baker's letter of November 11 "enclosing a copy of Colonel Henderson's order dated, 'Apalachicola, October 26th,' directing you on Surgeon's Certificate to report yourself to this Office for further orders, and in answer, I have to only to state, that as soon as your health will permit, you will return to the Army in Florida, and report for duty to the proper officers." 122

First Lieutenant Francis C. Hall, was also directed to return to the "Army of Florida" from Washington as soon as his health permitted.

"This is the only answer I feel authorized to give it being the fixed purpose at General Headquarters not to diminish the force operating in Florida, by authorizing the absence of any officer employed with the troops there," 123 wrote General Jones to Lieutenant Hall.

Special Order No. 91, dated December 13, 1836, of the War Department provided that "the officers of the

Marine Corps, who have been serving with the Army at the South, pursuant to General Orders #33, and who have, in consequence of ill health, or other sufficient causes left the Army in the field by authority of the Commanding General with instructions to report at this Office are now considered as relieved from further duty with the Army; and they will accordingly report for orders to Lieutenant Colonel Robert D. Wainwright of the Marine Corps." ¹²⁴

"Learning, by express from Colonel Henderson, of the arrival of Commodore Dallas, " reported Brigadier General Jesup to the Secretary of War on December 23, 1836, "I came hither (Fort Brooke) to arrange with him a plan of combined operations." ¹²⁵

Secretary of the Navy Dickerson in his annual report for 1836 wrote that: "It was believed that our commerce in the Gulf of Mexico, and in the West Indies, would be more exposed than in any other quarter. To meet the apprehended danger, an unusually large force has been placed at the disposal of Commodore Dallas, the commander of the West India station. In addition to the vessels already stated as forming his squadron, three revenue cutters and three steamboats have been placed under his command and he has been charged with the complicated duties of protecting our commerce, of preventing the importation of slaves into

Texas or the United States, and of co-operating with the officers of the Army and Militia in prosecuting the war against the Creek and Seminole Indians; in the performance of all which duties his squadron has rendered the most essential services to the country.

"It is confidently hoped that the claims of this Corps will receive the early attention, which their necessities require, and to which they are entitled by their merits - merits which are much strengthened by their patriotic conduct, in volunteering their services in a campaign against the Creek Indians, in which they distinguished themselves by their zeal and perseverance in the duties assigned to them. As, however, they have been attached to the Army, while on this campaign, their merits will more appropriately receive the notice of the War, than of the Navy Department."

The St. Louis sailed from Pensacola Bay on October 1, 1836 and relieved the Warren at Tampa Bay. The Vandalia, with all the Marines of the Squadron except those of the St. Louis and accompanied by the Revenue Cutter Washington sailed on October 2, 1836 from Pensacola Bay for Key West. A plan was prepared for an expedition of the Marines and a party of bluejackets under Lieutenant Levin M. Powell of the Navy to proceed from Key West to Cape Florida and New River

126

to capture two hundred Seminoles in a night attack. Lieutenant Powell's expedition, accompanied by the Washington, left the Vandalia at Key West in eight boats, on October 13, 1836. It was formed of nine officers, including First Lieutenant N. S. Waldron and Second Lieutenant F. B. McNeill of the Marines, ninety-five Marines and fifty blue-jackets. Mr. Stephen Mallory and Dr. Leitner accompanied
127
the expedition.

The expedition reached Cape Florida on October 21. A detachment was sent to inspect the late settlement at the mouth of the Miami River. "On the ensuing night, Lieutenant Waldron, with a strong detachment, ascended the Miami to the head of navigation, and reported the settlements utterly destroyed, though not recently." A secret descent upon the New River country was next started. The Marines under Lieutenant Waldron, ascended the Ratones River to its head waters, and marched upon the New River. In the meantime the Bluejackets entered the New River from the sea. The plan
128
worked splendidly. The expedition arrived back on board the Vandalia on December 9, 1836. Some of the Marines, how-
129
ever, did not return until December 15.

On January 1, 1837, General Jesup, at Tampa Bay, reported to the War Department that the body of the Indian Forces were south and southeast. "Commodore Dallas has sent

sixty sailors to garrison Fort Foster, twenty-five miles east" of Tampa Bay. The Commodore, on December 31, despatched a garrison to Fort Clinch, "and has promised a garrison for" Tampa Bay.¹³⁰

Commodore Dallas aboard the Concord at Tampa Bay wrote Secretary Dickerson on January 2, 1837 as follows:

"On my arrival here, from Key West I found this post in charge of Colonel Henderson of the Marines, and Major General Jesup in the field. Understanding that a messenger was to be despatched to the latter, I concluded to inform him of my arrival, and tender to him the co-operation of the force under my command, in the manner following:- That if he would place in charge of the Officers, Seamen and Marines of the Squadron, Fort Clinch on the Quithla-coochee, Fort Foster on the Hillsborough, Fort Brooke, the Forts at Dade's Battle ground, and at Volusia, I would detach officers and men sufficient to protect, defend and keep those posts, to the end, that the General being relieved from their protection, and thereby enabled to concentrate all the troops belonging to the Army of the South, might take the field with a much larger and more efficient force, than he otherwise could do.

"After conferring with the General he has consented that the Navy shall occupy and command at Forts Clinch,

Foster and Brooke, and officers and men have been detached for that service, Viz: to Fort Clinch, Lieutenant Bell, Midshipmen Hoban and Morgan, 38 seamen and 12 Marines; to Fort Brooke, Lieutenant Leib, Midshipmen Mix and Wingate and sixty Seamen. 25 Marines will be added to that post; to Fort Brooke, Lieutenant Adams, 3 Midshipmen, Reed Barrett and Shields, with about 100 men, the number to be increased to 200 Seamen and Marines, on the arrival of the other Vessels. The post will then be placed in charge of a Master Commandant.

"The Steamer Major Dade, (Lieutenant Hunter, Commanding) has gone on with a party of sixty Marines to make a descent on a party of Indians, said to be at or near a stream called Crystal or clear river. She will return to this in course of a few days.

"The Steamer American (Lieutenant Johnston, Commanding) left this 31st Ulto. with the party of seamen and Marines, for Fort Clinch under Lieutenant Bell.

"The St. Louis, sailed for Pensacola 25th Ulto., with orders to the Vandalia, Natchez and Grampus, should they have arrived there, to repair to this port without delay.

"Boats of very light draught of water are now being built by the Carpenters of this ship, one of which will be finished in the course of the present week. In this,

I shall send a party with a competent officer to explore the Ouithlacoochee, above Fort Clinch to the head of Boat Navigation. The Boston will continue, for the protection¹³¹ of our commerce, cruising on the Coast of Mexico and Texas."

On January 3, 1837, at 9:00 a.m., the Marines, with the exception of Lieutenant Colonel Miller and Company A, with the Army, left Fort Brooke for the interior in search of Indians and continued in the field until May 18, 1837 when they returned to Fort Brooke, during which time large and small scouts were sent out from the main¹³² body of the Marine Corps and Army.

"I reported this morning to the General that (Brevet) Lieutenant Colonel Freeman had refused to go on duty as Officer-of-the-Day on the 4th, associated with Captains on the same detail," wrote Colonel Henderson on January 6, "The General immediately observed, that he must be arrested, and that a court would be ordered without delay for his trial. I suggested to him that a trial would be rendered unnecessary, by his giving an order, 'that Lieutenant Colonel Freeman should serve as Officer-of-the-Day as he had been originally detailed in connection with the Captains.' He concurred; and on the order being given, it was obeyed by that officer, who thus abandoned the position he had so¹³³ singularly assumed."

Orders No. 34, January 8, 1837 of the Army of the South, signed by Major General Jesup, at Fort Dade, provided in part:

"1. The Army of the South will be reorganized and divided into two Brigades.

"2. The First Brigade will be commanded by Brevet Brigadier Armistead and will be comprised of the Third and Fourth Regiment of Artillery (united into one regiment), the Sixth Infantry, the Alabama Volunteers, and one of the Battalions of friendly Indians.

"3. The Second Brigade will be commanded by Colonel Archibald Henderson, U.S. Marine Corps, and will be comprised of the First and Second Regiment of Artillery (united into one regiment), the Fourth Infantry, the Marine Corps, the Georgia Volunteers, and one Battalion of friendly Indians."

"9. (A mounted detachment was formed in each brigade.)
"These (mounted) detachments will be united under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Miller, of the Marine Corps, who is charged with the duty, until further orders of guarding the convoys dispatched from time to time from the Main Depot at Tampa Bay to the several depots on the Fort King Road."

"10. Lieutenant Colonel Miller is also charged with

the command of such of the depots referred to as are garrisoned by regular troops."

"12. Fort Dade will be garrisoned by a detachment from the Second Brigade under Colonel Henderson * * *.¹³⁴"

"While in Florida" Captain John Harris "had command of Mounted Marines and did good service in that capacity," wrote Colonel Henderson to the Secretary of the Navy. Second Lieutenant Louis F. Whitney was junior officer in this Company of Horse Marines. There were two mounted companies at one period, one composed of Marines and the other of Army personnel. The latter was disbanded, leaving¹³⁵ only the Mounted Marines.

"The Creek Regiment of Volunteers, which later fought under Colonel Henderson, consisted of 750 friendly Creek Indians, including two chiefs, by the name of Jim Boy and Paddy Carr. They were mustered and paid as militia in the service of the United States, and officered mostly by the Army and one Navy officer and wore White turbans to distinguish them in battle from the enemy. The Seminoles looked on them with the greatest hatred, scalping all¹³⁶ that fell into their hands."

"The great body of the Seminoles are said to be south," reported General Jesup on January 10. "The moment the regular troops come up, which will probably be tomorrow,

I shall either send or take a heavy detachment in that
137
direction."

On January 12, 1837 General Jesup, at Headquarters near the Cove of the Withlacoochee, reported to Washington that he had despatched a force down the south side of the Withlacoochee, and that he, himself, "moved down the north side of the river with the Marines," and other troops, "in all about 700 men, for the purpose of clearing the country on both sides of every hostile band." 138 On January 17 General Jesup reported that he had "swept the swamp of the Withlacoochee" and fifty-two Negroes and three Indians had been captured, but Powell escaped. 139

Lieutenant Colonel Samuel Miller, who on January 20, 1837 was "commanding Escorts and Posts on the Route to Fort Armstrong Garrisoned by the Army," expressed a desire to accompany the Army on its first and second movement into the interior. Major General Jesup on the above date wrote Miller praising his services and stating that the duties he was performing was more important than any others he could be detailed to. 140

On January 19, 1837 Commodore Dallas reported that "Fort Brooke, Fort Foster and Fort Clinch are still garrisoned by Seamen and Marines of the Squadron," also that the Major Dade and American had returned to Tampa Bay from the

examination of Crystal River and Vacasassa Swamps. ¹⁴¹

A force of Marines out three days from Fort Armstong, ¹⁴²
near Dade's, returned the 20th of January.

The Major Dade left Tampa Bay on January 23 for the
Withlacoochee carrying a specially constructed boat to
ascend that river to the head of boat navigation, above ¹⁴³
Fort Clinch.

Private Alexander Burke died of disease near Fort ¹⁴⁴
Armstong on January 20, 1837. Private John Miller, at-
tached to the Marine Barracks, Pensacola, died at the Naval ¹⁴⁵
Hospital near the Navy Yard on January 24, 1837. Private
Thomas Irwin was wounded by a musket ball at Fort Armstrong
in January of 1837 "supposed by accident." Private William
W. Vancleaf, of Company D, died of disease on February 21,
1837 and Private John Sweeney of Company E, at Tampa Bay.
Private James O'Neill of Company E, died of disease on
March 1, 1837 and Private John Reardan of Company C, on ¹⁴⁴
March 14, 1837 at Fort Brooke.

Commodore Dallas, on January 27 reported that he had
hopes "in the spring" that "a portion of the force now
cooperating with the Army will be enabled to rejoin their
ships." ¹⁴⁶

On the 22nd of January, 1837, the main body of the
Army, under General Jesup, marched to the headwaters of

the Ocklawaha, where it was supposed were the strongholds
147
of the enemy.

Colonel Henderson described the Battle of Hatchee-
148
Lustee, that occurred on January 27, in the following report
to General Jesup:

"Under your directions, I left the main army on the morning of the 27th, with the Mounted Alabama Volunteers, under Lieutenant Colonel Caulfield, and the company of Mounted Marines under Captain John Harris, and proceeded, accompanied by your aid, Lieutenant Chambers, on a southerly trail. Orders were left for Major Morris, with his command to follow as rapidly as possible * * *.

"The troops under my command then pursued the trail for about a mile, when we came to two diverging trails, one taking a south-easterly course, and the other more to the eastward. On these two trails, the signs were the most recent; and Lieutenant Chambers, with a few men, proceeded to trace out one of them, while the rest of the troops, joined here by Major Morris's, pursued the other. We had proceeded but a short distance, when a volunteer, sent by Lieutenant Chambers, brought information that fresh signs of women's and children's tracks were discovered, and requested a company to be sent to him. Captain Price's company of volunteers was ordered accordingly.

"About a mile in advance a Negro man was captured at a fire. He informed us that a large number of Negroes were in advance, and from forty to fifty Indians, with Abraham, were in our rear. He stated that he had left the latter body since sunrise in the morning.

"The determination was promptly made to retrace our steps and attack the Indians. Just as we were about to march, one of the volunteers came up and gave information that Lieutenant Chambers had overtaken a considerable force of Indians and Negroes. An order was given to proceed to his support, and a rapid movement made for that purpose. When we came up with him, he was in possession of two Indian women and three children, besides a body of Negroes taken by the Volunteers in the adjoining pine woods. - He had, also, in his possession, over a hundred ponies, with a large quantity of plunder/^{packed} on them as well as several stand of arms.

"The main body of the enemy escaped in the swamp, and Major Morris was ordered, with his command, to pursue, and bring them in. He entered the swamp in accordance with the order.

"The remaining troops were then ordered to form and pursue the Indian force in our rear, and were ready to march, when a firing commenced in the swamp.* * *

"About half past eleven, the Marines, preceded by the officers, entered the swamp, and were immediately followed by the Alabama Volunteers. Four or five hundred yards after entering the swamp we arrived at a deep stream, from twenty to twenty-five yards wide, and found Major Morris's battalion engaged with the enemy across it. A tree had been felled from each side and formed the only way of passing it.

"The troops, as they came up, were ordered to extend to the right and left, and by a cross fire, to dislodge the enemy. * * * Their fire soon slackened, and an order was given to cross the stream, when Captain Morris (Major of the First Indian battalion) gallantly advanced on the log, followed by Lieutenant Chambers, Lieutenant Searle, Captain Harris, Lieutenant Lee, (Captain of the Indian Battalion), swam the stream at this time, and joined the officers on the other side. I attempted to cross in this way, but had to return to the log, and crossed there. At this stream, Private Joel Wright, of the Marines, was killed and Sergeant Daniel Cunningham and Private John M. Sullivan and Peter Foley, wounded, but not dangerously.

"Just as I was crossing, an officer was sent from Lieutenant Colonel Caulfield, on our right, for orders. He was directed to cross as rapidly as he could with his men, after the regulars and Indians had crossed over.

"We were then promptly joined by the Marines, Morris's Artillery, and some friendly Indians, and pursued the enemy as rapidly as the deep swamp and their mode of warfare admitted.

"Another fire was received from them further in advance and their trail from the swamp was followed through an open pine woods, and traced till it again entered the swamp, three-quarters of a mile from the place it came out. We were joined by Lieutenant Colonel Caulfield, and his men, who had been delayed in crossing the stream. The swamp was again entered, deeper and more difficult to pass, than it had been. The friendly Indians were directed to enter on each flank, while the Regulars and Volunteers advanced in the center. The Regulars were ordered to lead the march.

"After advancing about half a mile, the enemy again fired on us, but retreated on the advance of the troops. At this place Private (Drummer) Thomas P.) Peterson of the Marines, was killed, and Corporal (Sergeant Leonard) Stevens severely but not dangerously wounded.

"On a further advance into the swamp, a few more guns were fired by the enemy, who retreated as the troops followed them. * * *

"The loss of the enemy in these several attacks could not be ascertained, as the troops made no halt in the pur-

suit and returned after dark. One Indian, however, and two Negroes, were seen by the troops, dead.

"The result of this day's operations, was the capture of two Indian women and three children, and twenty-three Negroes, young and old, over a hundred ponies, with packs on about fifty of them. All their clothes, blankets, and other baggage, were abandoned by the enemy, and either taken or destroyed by us. * * *

"The Regular Troops, both Artillery and Marines, displayed great bravery, and the most untiring and determined perseverance. The Marines, however, I cannot refrain from mentioning in a particular manner. The killed and wounded show where they were, and render any further comment from me unnecessary.

"Lieutenant Whitney, of Captain Harris's company, and Lieutenant Brent, of Captain Morris's, were with their companies and shared in the dangers and fatigue of the day, in such a manner as to reflect great credit on them.

"I would recommend to the particular notice of yourself, and the Government, the five officers who first crossed the stream and who, in pursuit, constantly led the van. It would be as gratifying to me, as it would be just to them, that some marks of distinction be bestowed, where such gallantry has been displayed."

Colonel Henderson modified his first report with the following:

"In the report made to you on the 28th January last of the operations of the previous day, two mistakes were made inadvertently, and which are now corrected.

"The first mistake is in not stating that the Negroes taken in the pine woods were captured by a detachment of Captain Will's company of Alabama volunteers, sent with orders to Captain Price. The second error is in mentioning Lieutenant Chambers as commanding the force that captured the Indian Women and children, the ponies, and other property of the enemy. Captain Price was in command." 149

During this Battle of Hatchee Lustee the Sixth Regiment, under Major Thompson, "moved at the head of his corps, under General Armistead, to support Colonel Henderson, who commanded the advance of the Army," reported General Jesup; "and afterwards to attack the Indians concentrated in the 'Cabbage Hammock,' to the right of the Colonel's position." 150

General Jesup asked that the "gallant" Colonel Henderson and other officers "be rewarded by the distinguished approbation of the Government." To "Brigadier General Armistead, Lieutenant-Colonel Caulfield, Major Thompson, Major Morris, and to Colonel Henderson (U.S.M.C.), Lieutenant-Colonel Freeman (U.S.M.C.), Major Kirby and Major

Graham * * * I am under the greatest obligations for the prompt, and efficient support which they have on all occasions, given to me during the expedition," reported
151
General Jesup.

Colonel-Commandant Archibald Henderson of Virginia was awarded brevet rank of Brigadier General, January 27, 1837 "for gallant and meritorious services while in command of the Marines in Alabama, Florida, and Tennessee, during the campaigns against the hostile Indians." Captain John Harris of Pennsylvania, was awarded brevet rank of Major, January 27, 1837 "for gallantry and good conduct in the war against the Florida Indians, particularly in the affair of Hatchee Lustee." Captain William Dulany was awarded the brevet rank of Major, March 3, 1843. Corporal Leonard Stevens was promoted to Sergeant and Private Josiah Whitcomb to
152
Corporal for gallantry.

Private (Drummer) Thomas P. Peterson and Private Joel Wright were killed in action in this battle and the following were wounded: Sergeant Daniel Cunningham (in both shoulders), Sergeant Leonard Stevens (in the thigh),
153
Privates Peter Foley and John M. Sullivan (in the lip).

On the 31st of January at three o'clock p.m., a White Flag was seen coming into the Camp borne by Abraham when arrangements were made for a meeting of General Jesup with

many of the Chiefs at Fort Dade on a certain day, at which
meeting a peace was concluded. 154

"The Army commenced its return march on the morning of the 4th. I left it yesterday about thirty miles back, and came in last evening. It arrived to-day in good health and fine spirits. Colonel Henderson's report, a copy of which is enclosed, will give you more detailed information of the battle of the Hatchee Luskee than I have been able to embody in this report," reported General Jesup. 155

Colonel Henderson was made a Brevet Brigadier General for his splendid leadership and achievements in this campaign. 156

The muster rolls for January 31, 1837 shows Company A, under Captain Twiggs at Fort Armstrong, Company B, under Captain Harris in East Florida, Company C, under Captain Edson in East Florida, Company D, under Captain Dulany at Fort Dade and Company E, under Lieutenant Terrett in East Florida. 62

The Logbook of the Vandalia at Tamps Bay on January 31 shows a detachment of bluejackets and 33 Marines leaving the ship for Fort Brooke. Also that two of these Marines returned on February 5. 157

The subject of the departure of Lieutenant-Colonel William H. Freeman from Florida was preceded by some slight controversy. On February 1, 1837 Colonel Henderson wrote in his Journal: "Lieutenant Colonel Freeman informed me yesterday that he had spoken to the General on the subject of his return home, stating that he did so with my consent. I did assent to his making the application: on further consideration however his departure cannot be sanctioned by me, as other officers have quite as valid claims as he, for this indulgence. I sent word to him by Lieutenant Lindsay that I had come to this conclusion." Three days later the Colonel wrote: "Colonel Freeman sent by Captain Dulany a letter addressed to the General, stating that he had my full consent in making the application to be allowed to leave Florida, and asked of the General this indulgence. I noted on the inside of the letter, that I had assented with reluctance to his making the application. I also stated, that he had made a similar application to the War Department, which he denies. His letter is probably on file there. He read it to me at the time he sent it. He says it was a private letter." The matter was settled on February 8, Colonel Henderson explaining: "Lieutenant Colonel Freeman came over to my tent, and an explanation

took place between him and myself, the result of which was, that I agreed to give him orders to proceed to Washington, which were issued accordingly. Colonel Stanton came up while we were talking and I informed him that this had taken place." ¹⁵⁸

On February 8, 1837 a band, under Philip, attacked the post on Lake Monroe. Under orders of Commodore Dallas a small force under Lieutenant Johnson of the Navy took part in this battle. Lieutenant Piercy of the Navy, Captain of the friendly Indians, with his Indian Force, fought among the regular forces. One Army officer was killed and Passed Midshipman J.T.McLaughlim, U.S.Navy (a volunteer) was wounded. ¹⁵⁹

The U.S.S.American and her crew under, Lieutenant Johnson of the Navy, participated in operations with the Army up the Crystal River, also named the Wiwakiakki or Clear River, on February 9, 1837. Mackinac boats were used: "Midshipman Watkins, and Mr. Bayly, who volunteered his services, fought bravely throughout the whole affair." ¹⁶⁰ Colonel Foster in his report commended Lieutenant Johnson, Dr. Parsons, Midshipmen Watkins, Borden and Boudinot, and Mr. Bayly. ¹⁶¹

The muster rolls for February 28, 1837 shows Companies A, B, C, D, and E, at Fort Dade. ⁶²

Commodore Dallas arrived at Pensacola aboard the frigate Constellation on February 19 from Tampa Bay. He left Master Commandant Crabb "with about 100 Marines and 60 seamen in command of Fort Brooke." He reported to Secretary Dickerson that his cooperation in "garrisoning the Forts, Brooke and Clinch and Foster has enabled the General to carry into the field" a larger force.¹⁶²

On March 6 an agreement was signed by the Seminole Chiefs and General Jesup at Camp Dade.¹⁶³

Captain John Harris, of the Marines, carried General Jesup's report of the signing of this treaty, to Washington, leaving Fort Dade for the Capital on March 7, 1837.¹⁶⁴ Colonel Henderson at Camp Hillsborough seven miles from Tampa, wrote the following in his Journal on April 13: "The Indians come in slowly, but such is their characteristic, and I doubt not they will all be in this month or early in the next. We expect the first emigrating party to start the last of this week. So soon as this takes place, I shall ask orders to return to Washington. I did not wish to be premature in this request, and thereby do away any of the character which the Corps or myself has acquired on this service. I am anxious to leave Florida and our connection with the Army, without the shadow of a stain on our

escutcheon, and that the Corps shall return to its stations with an untarnished character. It has gone through both campaigns in great harmony with all the Corps, of all sort and kinds, with which it has been associated, Regulars, Volunteers, Indians and all and with almost uninterrupted good feeling towards all. We have some unquiet spirits among ourselves, which I have endeavoured to allay, so that no want of harmony should appear to others. Lieutenant Colonel Freeman etc. etc., are hard people to get along with. When we are obliged to come in contact with such men, we must take care to be right, and then they are powerless. They may present benefits from coming to us, but they cannot do much harm."

165

On March 26, 1837 General Jesup, on account of the arrival at Tampa Bay of great numbers of the enemy, believed the war to be over and began to discharge the volunteers.

166

The muster rolls show Companies A, B, C, D, and E, at Fort Dade on March 31.

62

The April 30 Muster rolls show Company A, at Little Hillsboro, Company B, at Camp Henderson, Company C, at Fort Brooke, Company D, at Little Hillsborough River, Company E, at Fort Foster, and a detachment under Lieutenant Waldron at Fort Brooke.

62

On April 2, Commodore Dallas reported: "The Steamer

American (Lieutenant Johnston) has been usefully and actively employed in transporting a party of captured Indians from the Suwannee to St. Mark's.

"Lieutenant Reynolds of the Marine Corps acting under the orders of General Jesup, aided by a detachment of Seamen from this ship, commanded by Acting Master J.K. Bowie have succeeded in getting the straggling parties of Creeks, Enchees and Seminoles (which have been the cause of much apprehension of danger in the neighborhood of Blackwater and even to the inhabitants of this place) to come in and submit to the orders of the Government. The whole, about seventy in number left this yesterday morning in a steam boat for Mobile Point. The promptness energy and discretion of the above named officers in producing this very fortunate result are deserving of all commendation. 167

The Marines and Bluejackets of the squadron gradually were relieved of their duties at the Forts. The Logbook of the Concord, March 26, 1837, shows a detachment of officers, bluejackets and thirty Marines returning aboard ship, via the Major Dade, from Fort Foster. The Logbook of the Vandalia, May 19, 1837 gives the names of the officers, bluejackets and 82 Marines under Lieutenant Waldron and McNeil returning aboard ship from Fort Brooke. Three Marines

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"transferred by Colonel Henderson were received on board."

The Logbook of the St. Louis shows a detachment of 44
Marines and Bluejackets returning aboard ship on May 29
via the Major Dade from the Withlacoochee. 168

General Jesup, on May 16, 1837 wrote to Captain Thomas Crabb, Commanding Fort Brooke, as follows:

"By reports received from every part of the Territory, I am confident that the war is over, and that the Indians, though they may not be readily assembled for emigration, will not renew hostilities. I shall be able to dispense with services on shore of the Naval and Marine force under your command, so soon as arrangements can be made by Colonel Henderson to relieve them. I have, however, to request that you remain, with the vessel under your command, in this bay, until a portion of the Indians be removed, to give assistance, should they fail to act in good faith. In dissolving the official relations in which we have stood to each other, so much to my satisfaction, for several months past, I cannot avoid the expression of the great obligations I am under to you and your command, for the uniform, steady, and efficient support which you have at all times given to me; a support most auspicious in its

effects upon the results of the campaign, and which I shall always remember with the liveliest gratitude." ¹⁶⁹

"Two Departments were created by an order from the Commanding General, dated 26th April, 1837. One of the Departments was placed under my command," wrote Colonel Henderson. ¹⁷⁰

Orders No. 108, of the Army of the South dated May 22, 1837 at Tampa Bay, was as follows:

"1. The presence of Colonel Henderson being required at the Head Quarters of his Corps, he will proceed to Washington City, and report to the Adjutant General of the Army.

"The Major General Commanding would be forgetful of what is due to merit, and would do injustice to his own feelings, were he to omit on the present occasion the expression of the high sense he entertains of the distinguished and valuable services rendered by the Colonel. He tenders him his warmest thanks for the able, zealous and cheerful support he has on every occasion received from him both in Florida and Alabama; and begs him to accept his best wishes for his future fame and happiness.

"2. Captain Howle, Adjutant and Inspector of the Marine Corps, and Surgeon John A. Kearney, of the Navy,

Medical Director of the Army, will accompany Colonel Henderson. The Major General thanks them for the zeal, efficiency, and ability with which they have performed every duty which has devolved on them since they have been attached to this Army, and he assures them that they carry them with his best wishes and kindest regards.

"3. Until further orders Major Thompson will command the troops North of the Hillsborough and South of the Ouithecoochee (Withlacoochee); also Fort Armstrong so long as a guard shall be necessary at out posts.

"4. Lieutenant Colonel Miller will command, with his brevet rank, the Troops south of the Hillsborough.

"5. Assistant Surgeon Tripler will relieve Surgeon Kearney in the charge of the Hospital at this post; and he will have the direction of the Medical Department south of
171
the Ouithecoochee."

Colonel Henderson and part of the Staff left Florida
172
on the 23rd of May for Washington City, leaving two Companies under Captain William Dulany and First Lieutenant George H. Terrett, the force of which united amounted to 189 including officers, with Lieutenant Colonel Miller in command.

"I left Florida on the 23rd May, 1837" wrote Colonel Henderson to Secretary of War J.R.Poinsett on October 7,

173
1837. He arrived in Washington on June 19, 1837, accompanied by Captain Parke G. Howle, and Dr. Kearney of the Navy, and assumed command of the Corps on June 23, 1837. 174

Upon the departure of Colonel Henderson, Brevet Lieutenant Colonel Samuel Miller became the Senior Marine Officer in Florida and also was Commanding Officer of Fort Brooke. 175 On May 24, 1837 Miller gave up command of the "several companies of Marines in the field" to Captain William Dulany, who commanded the "Corps in the field" from that date to May 19, 1837 in addition to commanding Company D. 175

The Marine officers, who had been serving as Army officers in Florida, still considered themselves as under Army jurisdiction upon arriving back in northern United States. On May 20, 1837 Lieutenant A. Edson at Portsmouth, N.H., requested instructions from the Adjutant General. That officer on May 29 directed him to report by letter to Lieutenant-Colonel Wainwright at Washington, and Lieutenant George F. Lindsay received the same on June 6. 176

Companies A, B, C, D, and E, were at Fort Brooke on May 31, 1837. 62

On June 2, 1837 First Lieutenant George H. Terrett was "detached to Fort Pike with Indian prisoners," and remained there in Command, until Major Zantzinger of the Army relieved him in September, 1837. 177

On the night of June 2, 1837, Micanopy, the head chief, and two or three others, who had encamped with their followers near Tampa Bay, the port of debarkation, were abducted and taken to the interior. Their disappearance was the signal for the breaking up of the camp and the renewal of hostilities.¹⁷⁸

Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel Miller wrote to Colonel Henderson in June from "Headquarters of the Troops South of Hillsboro, Tampa Bay," that "before this reaches you the information will have reached Washington that the Seminoles encamped in this vicinity have decamped and taken French leave. It is said that many of them are on the Oc-le-wai-hoo and south towards the Cape."¹⁷⁹

On June 5, 1837 General Jesup informed the War Department that the Indians who had surrendered and were in camp near Tampa for the purpose of emigration, were carried off by their own warriors, thus causing the unsuccessful termination of the campaign.¹⁸⁰ "This campaign, so far as relates to Indian emigration, has entirely failed," reported General Jesup, and he earnestly requested to be "immediately relieved from the command of this Army."¹⁸¹ On June 15 General Jesup reported to Secretary of War Poinsett that the Army "as at present constituted," is a "mere apology for defense and can never fulfill the ex-

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pectations of the country."

Captain Allen reported to Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel Samuel Miller, U.S. Marine Corps, at Tampa Bay from Fort Foster, on June 29, 1837 with Bowlegs, brother of Alligator. Bowlegs was a very unwilling visitor. He stated that Micanopy and Jumper were at Casseeme Creek and that Powell (Osceola) was near Volusia. Lieutenant Colonel Miller reported to General Jesup that "in consequence of the near connexion of this Indian with Alligator, I have deemed it advisable to secure him in the picket with the other prisoners." Also that "the shoes for the Marines," will be "completed early the next week."

The Marine Guards of the ships of the West India Squadron were active throughout this campaign. First Lieutenant Nathaniel S. Waldron was particularly active and was highly commended.

On June 2, 1837 Private Joseph W. Lyon, aboard the American at Pensacola, wrote Colonel Henderson that his enlistment had expired on May 22. "The company of Sailors and Marines to which I was attached arrived in this port on the evening of the 28th of May in the steam boat Major Dade from the Withlacoochee we was sent to our former ship the St. Louis. I informed Captain Paine my term of service had expired. He requested me to go the cruise in the ship I in-

formed him I had been unwell sometime previous and did not feel able to go accordingly I was sent back to the Major Dade the ship sailed at daylight the next morning and left me without any transfer or papers to certify that my term of service had expired from there. I was sent on board the Steam Boat American where I now remain under the command of Acting Master Boden, commander." ¹⁸⁶

Private John H. Durant of Company D, died of disease at Fort Brooke on June 29, 1837; Private Michael Sullivan of Company A, at Fort Brooke on July 15, 1837; Private George King of Company D, died of disease on August 3, 1837 during the passage from Tampa Bay to Philadelphia; Private William Steel of Company B, died of disease at Black Creek, Fla. on August 11, 1837; Private J.M. Woolfind of Company C, ¹⁸⁷ died of disease at Mullet Key on August 22, 1837.

On June 30, 1837, Companies A, B, C, D, and E, were ⁶² stationed at Fort Brooke.

In addition to the Marine officers serving as part of the Army of the South and on board Naval ships in Florida waters the following officers served under the direction of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs: Second Lieutenant John T. Sprague, First Lieutenant John G. Reynolds and Second Lieutenant Thomas T. Sloan. ¹⁸⁸

Lieutenant Sprague resigned from the Marine Corps on

July 3, 1837 for the purpose of receiving an appointment as Army officer. He was the author of the book called
188
"The History of the Florida War."

A New Orleans newspaper reported, on July 2, 1837, that "Lieutenant Sloan, of the United States Marine Corps, one of the officers in charge of the emigrating Creeks at present at Mobile Point, arrived in town on Friday evening, for the purpose of making arrangements for the speedy removal of these Indians to Pass Christian, a location more healthy, and one chosen by the Indians themselves as affording better water, &c. We have been informed that he has effected the object of his mission, and that these friendly
189
Indians will be removed to their new quarters immediately."

On June 24, 1837 Colonel Commandant Henderson at Washington wrote Major General Thomas S. Jesup at Tampa Bay as follows:

"An order was sent from the Adjutant General's Office two days ago, that the position of the Corps now in Florida be sent to its stations as soon as their services could be dispensed with. This order was issued at my instance and in consequence of the Secretary of the Navy having desired me to say to the Secretary of War, that the services of these troops were required at their posts. Under these circumstances and from the actual condition of the troops

themselves, I cannot doubt that you will direct their immediate return to their respective stations. I hear that an authority to leave Florida has been sent you and I trust that the existing state of affairs in that Country will enable you to avail yourself of it in a very short time."¹⁹⁰

General Jesup replied to the above letter on July 4 as follows:

"I received yesterday at Black Creek your letter of the 24th of last month. No order has been received in regard to the Marines; and if received it would be conditional. There is nothing within my power which I would not do to serve your Corps - I owe it too many obligations to be indifferent to its interests, or even to its wishes, but the condition annexed to the order puts it out of my power to act. The number of troops composing the Corps cannot be anstracted from service here without endangering the peace and security of the frontier. If the government would send recruits to fill the ranks even of the Infantry regiments the Corps might be spared, but I hear of no recruits except a few for the 6th and I do not understand when they are to be received.

"I have received no authority to leave Florida, but I take it for granted that when my failure to emigrate the

Seminoles shall be known, that a successor will be appointed to the command of the Army here. The sooner the better. I have no other wish than to join my family, and spend the remainder of my life on my farm, and in directing the education of my children." ¹⁹¹

As early as June 5, 1837, Major General Jesup "asked to be relieved from the command" of the Army of the South. On July 8 Major General Jesup received word that the Secretary of War would grant the request. The press attacked Major General Jesup, for asking to be relieved and he ¹⁹² decided to continue in command.

Major General Jesup, on July 10, 1837 reported that "many of the companies serving in Florida are mere ¹⁹³ skeletons".

Major General Jesup having ordered fifty Creek warriors to escort stores from Fort Dade to Fort King Lieutenant Colonel Samuel Miller, commanding Fort Brooke, reported, on July 16, 1837, that "Major Freeman can furnish but thirty men from the Creek Volunteers", that the rest were "sick or claim to be so", and that the Creeks were ¹⁹⁴ "anxious of joining their families and friends in the West."

On July 8, 1837, Lieutenant Colonel Miller reported to Major General Jesup that "Bow Legs", brother of Alligator had been brought unwillingly to Tampa Bay, and was

secured "in the picket with the other prisoners". He also reported that the "sheds for the Marines" would be completed¹⁹⁵ in about a week.

General Henderson succeeded, after considerable effort, in having some of the Marines relieved from duty with the Army in Florida. On June 24, 1837 he wrote Major General Jesup: " An order was sent from the Adj. General's office, two days ago, that the portion of the Corps now in Florida be sent to its stations so soon as their services could be dispensed with. This order was issued at my instance and in consequence of the Secretary of the Navy having desired me to say to the Secretary of War, that the services of¹⁹⁶ these troops were required at their posts."

Brevet Lieutenant Colonel Miller was relieved from duty in Florida Territory by Orders No. 151 on July 18, 1837. He was succeeded in command of Fort Brooke by an Army officer, and left Florida that month with orders to¹⁹⁷ report to the Adjutant General of the Army. He reported¹⁹⁷ at Headquarters on August 18, 1837. Captain William Dulany then assumed command of the Marines in Florida. Marine Officers serving under Captain Dulany were: Captain Benjamin Macomber; First Lieutenant T.L.C. Watkins; Second Lieutenant R.C. Caldwell; Second Lieutenant W.L. Young; and¹⁹⁸ Second Lieutenant Josiah Watson.

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198
Second Lieutenant Josiah Watson.

fairly expected, nevertheless no mention of their services in the many, very many General Orders, lauding the merits, bravery, gallantry, perseverance, etc. of volunteers, militia and regular forces engaged in the War in Florida." 201

First Lieutenant George H. Terrett who, with his company of Marines, had been garrisoning Fort Pike, was ordered, on September 2, 1837, to join Captain Dulany's command at Tampa Bay. 202

On September 11, 1837 Henderson wrote Secretary of the Navy Mahlon Dickerson that he had received his order to put Marines on Frigate Columbia and Sloop John Adams; but that there were not "thirty men sufficiently drilled for the sea service at all the stations of the Corps", and urged "the return of that portion of the Corps on service with the Army," for "unless such an order is given, the appropriate duties of the Corps cannot be carried on." 203

On November 8, 1837 Henderson wrote Secretary of the Navy Mahlon Dickerson that he had been informed that if sufficient Marines could be sent to Marine Barracks at Brooklyn, Charlestown, Mass., and Philadelphia "the watchmen could be dispensed with," and that this is an "additional reason for the return of the Troops from Florida." 204

Private Isaac Elburn of Company D died of disease at

at Fort Monroe on October 1, 1837; Private William J. Henry of Company D died of disease at Fort Dulany, East Florida on November 17, 1837 and Private John Jackson died of disease at the same fort on November 22, 1837. ²⁰⁵ Orderly Sergeant William Tait died of disease at Upper Post Sannibar River ²⁰⁶ on December 5, 1837.

Major General Thomas S. Jesup in a letter dated November 21, 1837 to Secretary of War J.R. Poinsett acknowledged receipt of a letter from him by Second Lieutenant G.W. McLean of the Marine Corps. Major General Jesup "attached him to the Staff, as assistant commissary and assistant ²⁰⁷ quartermaster."

On November 30, 1837 there were four Marine Officers and 170 Marines serving in Florida under Major General ²⁰⁸ Jesup.

The Secretary of War, on December 2, 1837 reported: "Throughout the whole conduct of this war, the West India squadron has cooperated with the Army in the most active and efficient manner, not only by promptly furnishing every aid which the appropriate duties of that branch of the service required, but by the officers taking upon themselves the defence of posts on shore, and lending the aid of their professional skill in every situation in which it could be usefully applied, with that preserving courage,

zeal, and ability which have at all times distinguished our gallant Navy. The revenue cutters, placed under the command of the Commodore of that Squadron, have likewise rendered the most efficient service under the direction of that excellent officer. Part of the Marine Corps, which volunteered its services in Florida, and distinguished itself during the last campaign, still remains there; and it is hoped that they may be permitted to continue their valuable services to the army of the south until the close of the war." ²⁰⁹

President Van Buren in his First Annual Message, December 5, 1837 wrote: "Additions have been made to our squadron on the West India station, where the large force under Commodore Dallas has been most actively and efficiently employed in protecting our commerce, in preventing the importation of slaves, and in cooperating with the officers of the Army in carrying on the war in Florida." ²¹⁰

In December, 1837, the last severe battle of the war was fought by Colonel Zachary Taylor at Lake Okeechobee. ²¹¹
The Americans had 26 killed and 112 wounded.

On January 1, 1838 Captain William Dulany, First Lieutenant George H. Terrett, Second Lieutenant Robert C. Caldwell, William L. Young, and Josiah Watson were "cooperating with Army, E.F." ²¹² First Lieutenant John G. Reynolds and Second Lieutenant Thomas Theodore Sloan were "on duty in the

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Indian Department". First Lieutenant Thomas L.C. Watkins was "under orders from General Jesup, settling accounts with War Department." ²¹⁴ Lieutenant John T. Sprague was also on ¹⁸⁸ Indian Emigration Service.

Private John A. Perley of Company E died of disease at Fort Denaud, East Florida, on February 3, 1838; Private Richard T. Trask of Company E died of disease at Tampa Bay on April 2, 1838; Corporals Charles Pike and Matthew McKinley died of disease at Tampa Bay on April 14, 1838. ²¹⁵

Commodore Dallas while at Tallahassee, late in January, 1838, was informed that the Indians had burnt some houses and killed several persons, about twenty miles from that place, and that there was not sufficient force in the neighborhood which might readily be called into service to repel any further aggressions. He immediately ordered the Grampus round to St. Marks with the Marines of the Constellation, where she arrived about the 1st of February. They were temporarily stationed, under Lieutenant Waldron near the place where these hostilities were committed by the Indians, and were ordered to remain there until their services were required on board, or until the necessary protection for that part of Florida could be obtained from ²¹⁶ the Army.

In a letter dated March 5, 1838 Major General Jesup

thanked Commodore Dallas "for the prompt assistance which you so kindly rendered to the inhabitants of Middle Florida by detaching the Marines of the Squadron under your command to that section of country. Your offer to cooperate with me in closing the war, is an additional claim on my gratitude. Lieutenant Powell has not failed, he has cooperated with me most efficiently and is now at the point where he can enter the Everglades. He will penetrate them so soon as I shall have placed a force on New River sufficient to protect his movements which will be in a few days. His affair in this vicinity was most gallant though he was compelled to retreat to his boats with some loss." ²¹⁷

In April, 1838 Major General Jesup was ordered to proceed to the Cherokee Country and leave Colonel Taylor in ²¹⁸ command of the forces in Florida.

The Marines under Captain Dulany "were sent to the Cherokee Country, and the entire submission of that formidable tribe ends their present connexion with the Army" ²¹⁹ wrote Brigadier General Henderson.

In Orders No. 102 of April 29, 1838, Major General Jesup directed Captain Dulany to "proceed with the Marines under his command to Baton Rouge" where he would "receive orders in relation to his march to the Cherokee Country." The General also expressed to "Captain Dulany and the officers and Marines composing his command, the high sense

which he entertains of their good conduct, and of the faithfulness and energy with which they have performed their laborious and often disagreeable duties during the three campaigns which they have served under his orders. He tenders them the thanks of the Country and wishes them success and fame on the new Theatre to which they are now called." ²²⁰

On the fifteenth of May, 1838, Major General Jesup relinquished the command of the Army of Florida to Brevet Brigadier-General Z. Taylor, then colonel of the 6th regiment of U.S. Infantry. ²²¹

Lieutenant Waldron and Assistant Surgeon Richard W. Leacock, U.S. Navy with 40 Marines, arrived on board the Concord from St. Marks, on May 21, 1838. ²²²

First Lieutenant John G. Reynolds, of the Marines, took a leading part in emigrating the Indians and Negroes to their new homes in the West. These people, including the ninety that had been escorted to Fort Pike by Lieutenant Terrett in June, 1837, were situated at various places. ¹⁷⁷ Agreeably to orders received from the War Department General Jesup detailed Lieutenant Reynolds to superintend the emigration, as disbursing agent, and W. G. Freeman as an assistant. Reynolds received instructions from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs to gather the prisoners at Charleston, S.C. and to call at Tampa Bay and collect the

negroes there who were the "property of the Seminoles" and transport them to the West with those then at New Orleans²²³ (Fort Pike). These latter were nearly all women and children. Reynolds left Charleston in February, 1838 on the brig Homer in charge of the Indian prisoners who had been confined at²²⁴ Fort Moultrie.

Lieutenant Reynolds arrived at the "New Barracks below New Orleans," with a "party of Seminole Indians," on March 13, 1838. "Those located at Fort Pike, I brought over the succeeding day," reported Reynolds, but "the negroes not being expressed in the order, Major Zantzinger, the Commanding Officer, declined letting me have them without a positive order; the leaving of them created considerable discontent²²⁵ among the Indians many of whom being owners."

Lieutenant Reynolds refused to leave New Orleans without these negroes. "General Gaines, in the meantime, arrived, and hearing the cause of delay, issued an order for turning them over" to Reynolds "for emigrating," and he, without hearing from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, made "every arrangement for ascending the Mississippi immediately."²²⁵

However, these prisoners at Fort Pike called the "Ninety Exiles," by some, caused Lieutenant Reynolds considerable trouble. On March 26, 1838 he wrote the Commissioner that the "Indian negroes will be received at Fort

Pike and brought" to the New Barracks below New Orleans via the Mississippi River. It seemed that eight thousand dollars had been refused by the Creeks for these negroes, according to Second Lieutenant Thomas T. Sloan of the Marines. Then a slave-dealer, with the apparent approval of the Government, had purchased them for fourteen or fifteen thousand dollars on May 7, 1838, and orders were issued on the following day to return these ninety negroes or Exiles to the Creeks who had captured them. Next, General Jesup declared them prisoners of war in charge of Lieutenant Reynolds en-route to Fort Gibson in Arkansas. Finally, Reynolds embarked on May 21, 1838 with all except four maroons whom he discharged, and thirty-one negroes left in charge of the Sheriff. The Agent with the order for the ninety Exiles arrived at New Orleans one day later, but caught up with Reynolds at Vicksburg. Not being able to arrive at a satisfactory conclusion they all left Vicksburg for Fort Gibson on the 27th. The party was detained at Little Rock by low water and on June 3, 1838 Reynolds addressed a letter to Governor Samuel C. Roane of Arkansas explaining his predicament. Although Arkansas was a slave state the Governor instructed Reynolds to carry out his orders and deliver the negroes to Fort Gibson. Reaching the fort, on June 12, 1838, Reynolds turned the entire party of prisoners

over to the Agent appointed to reside with the Western Seminoles. Reynolds wrote to the commanding general of Fort Gibson on the day of his arrival but the General on the following day replied that he was unwilling to change the status of the negroes. Reynolds arrived back at New Orleans on June 23, 1838. The thirty-one slaves were still in the possession of the Sheriff. They were turned over to Reynolds four days later and sent on to Fort Gibson. That was the end of the imbroglio except that the Commissioner of Indian Affairs was very displeased with Lieutenant Reynolds.
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Captain Dulany's battalion (Companies D and E) of Marines joined Headquarters in Washington on July 23, 1838, the Commandant, on the 28th of that month reporting to Secretary of the Navy James K. Paulding:

"I have the honour to report to the Department the return of the Battalion of Marines from their tour of service with the Army. It will now be in my power to furnish a small guard on the Norfolk station. The Barracks there are in a condition to receive this detachment, if it be the pleasure of the Dept. to give the order."
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"In many former communications to the Department I have endeavored to show that the interests of the Navy itself are best subserved by the full and effective preservation of the Military Character of the Corps," wrote

the Commandant to the Secretary of the Navy. "The two past years establish a further fact that the Army has a like interest in this matter. As a proof of this I beg leave to refer you to the Commanding General of the South and to his official orders and reports in relation to the Corps." ²²⁷

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